

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A hinge, comprising:
a first mounting base having a first base length for attachment to a first hinged
5 object;
first and second hinge members pivotally connected together, the first hinge member
including a first hinge length, wherein the first hinge member and the first base are
configured and dimensioned for cooperatively positioning and aligning the first hinge
member in a plurality of mounted positions along the length of the first base; and
10 at least one first locking member associated with the first hinge member and the first
base for locking the first hinge member to the first base in one of the mounted positions.
2. The hinge of claim 1, wherein the plurality of mounting positions comprises
substantially a continuum of mounting positions.
3. The hinge of claim 1, wherein the hinge is a pinless hinge.
- 15 4. The hinge of claim 1, wherein the hinge has a hinge width with the first and
second hinge members pivoted away from each other, the ratio of the first length to the
hinge width being greater than about 1.25.
5. The hinge of claim 4, wherein the ratio of the first length to the hinge width
is greater than about 2.
- 20 6. The hinge of claim 1, wherein the first base is of integral construction with
the first hinged object.
7. The hinge of claim 1, wherein:
the first base includes a ledge; and
the first hinge member includes a hook portion engageable with the ledge for
25 mounting the first hinge member to the first base.
8. The hinge of claim 1, wherein:

the locking member has a locked position for locking the first hinge member to the first base, an unlocked position for releasing the first hinge member from the first base, and is movable in a locking direction between the unlocked and locked positions; and

5 the first base includes a fastening surface disposed at a fastening surface angle to the locking direction.

9. The hinge of claim 8, wherein the fastening surface angle is between about 20° and 60°.

10. The hinge of claim 1, wherein the first base and the first hinge member have lateral edges that are engageable to each other for mounting the first hinge member to the first base.

11. The hinge of claim 1, further comprising a second mounting base for attachment to a second hinged object and for mounting the second hinge member.

12. A hinge mounting system, comprising:
a first mounting base attachable to a first hinged object and configured and dimensioned for mounting a first mountable portion of a first hinge member thereto with the first base attached to the first hinged object;

a mount assembly for a second hinge member and for attachment to a second hinged object; and

a positioning tool connected to the first base and the mount assembly and configured for positioning the first base and mount assembly at a predetermined distance with respect to each other for placement on and attachment to the hinged objects.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising the first and second hinge members, which are pivotally connected together.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the first and second hinge members, for which the first mounting base and the mount assembly are configured and dimensioned for mounting thereto, are sized and connected to position the first mounting base and the mount assembly at a mounted distance that is different than the predetermined distance.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the mount assembly comprises a second mounting base configured and dimensioned for mounting a second mountable portion of the second hinge member thereto with the second base attached to the second hinged object.

5 16. The system of claim 12, wherein the positioning tool is associated with the first base and the mount assembly for substantially restricting a distance between the first base and mount assembly to a preselected maximum or minimum distance.

17. The system of claim 12, wherein the positioning tool is adjustable to select the predetermined distance.

10 18. The system of claim 12, wherein the positioning tool includes a flexible portion.

19. The system of claim 12, wherein the positioning tool is substantially rigid.

20. The system of claim 12, further comprising a magnet magnetically connecting the positioning tool to the first base.

15 21. The system of claim 12, further comprising the positioning tool connected to the first base by non-magnetic means.

22. The system of claim 12, wherein the positioning tool comprises a disconnect portion that is frangible and disposed such that severing of the disconnect portion causes the positioning tool to disconnect the first base from the mount assembly.

20 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the disconnect portion comprises a tearstrip configured for severing the positioning tool at the disconnect portion.

24. The system of claim 12, further comprising a hinged-object spacer having a thickness and protruding from the positioning tool at an angle with respect to the direction of the predetermined distance and configured for setting a clearance between the hinged objects depending upon the thickness of the object spacer.

25 25. The system of claim 12, wherein at least the first base comprises an adhesive configured and disposed for attaching to the first hinged object.

26. The system of claim 12, wherein at least one of the first base and the positioning tool includes first and second segments of non-unitary construction.

27. The system of claim 12, wherein the positioning tool has at least one pierced opening to aid in aligning the tool with the hinged objects.

5 28. A method of mounting a hinge comprising:
with a positioning tool, aligning and spacing a first base in a mounting position from a mount assembly that is configured for a connecting a second hinge member to a second hinged object, the first base being configured for mounting a first hinge member thereto;
attaching the first base in the mounting position to a first hinged object; and
10 aligning and mounting to the first base the first hinge member that is pivotally connected to the second hinge member.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising attaching the mount assembly to the second hinged object.

15 30. The method of claim 29, further comprising aligning and mounting to the mount assembly the second hinged member.

31. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
mounting the first and second hinge members respectively to the first base and mount assembly to position the first base and mount assembly at a mounted distance with respect to each other;
20 wherein the aligning and spacing comprises spacing the first base with respect to the mount assembly at a tool distance that is different than the mounted distance.

32. A segmented hinge, comprising:
a first hinge member attachable to a hinged object;
a second hinge member attachable to another hinged object and pivotally connected
25 to the first hinge member; and
a joining member pivotally connecting the first and second hinge members;
wherein at least the joining member or both hinge members are segmented into at least first and second segments disposed in longitudinal series.

33. The hinge of claim 32, wherein the first and second hinge members collectively are segmented into the first and second segments.

34. The hinge of claim 33, wherein the first and second hinge members include at least lateral or longitudinal support configuration, and the support configuration is
5 different in the first and second segments.

35. The hinge of claim 34, wherein:
the support configuration in the first hinge segment is free of longitudinal supports between the hinge members, such that the hinge members in the first segment are movable longitudinally relative to each other; and
10 the support configuration in the second hinge segment includes at least one longitudinal support for restricting relative longitudinal movement between the hinge members in the second segment.

36. The hinge of claim 32, further comprising a mounting base configured for attachment to the hinged object, wherein the first hinge member and the base are configured
15 and dimensioned for cooperatively positioning and aligning the first hinge member to the base.

37. The hinge of claim 36, wherein the mounting base is segmented into first and second segments disposed in longitudinal series.

38. The hinge of claim 32, further comprising a coupling member configured for
20 coupling the first and second segments together with the hinge detached from the hinged objects.

39. A hinge, comprising:
first and second hinge members attachable to first and second hinged objects;
a joining member pivotally connecting the first and second hinge members together;
25 and
at least one coupling member;
wherein at least the joining member or both hinge members are segmented into at least first and second segments; and

wherein the at least one coupling member is configured for coupling the at least first and second segments together in coupled association with the hinge detached from the hinged objects and the segments disposed in longitudinal series.

40. The hinge of claim 39 further comprising the joining member and both hinge
5 members being segmented into at least first and second segments.

41. An adjustable hinge mounting base, comprising:
an attachment portion attachable to a hinged object;
a mounting portion configured for mounting and aligning a hinge member thereto;
and
10 a fastening assembly associated with the attachment portion for selectively attaching in a plurality of positions to the hinged object at an attachment position on the hinged object.

42. A positioning tool for mounting a hinge comprising:
a first base positioner configured and adapted for receiving a first hinge mounting
15 base, the first base for mounting to a first hinged object;
a detachable second base positioner configured and adapted for receiving a second hinge mounting base, the second base for mounting to a second hinged object; and
a connecting means for releaseably holding the first and second mounting base positioners together.

20 43. The positioning tool of claim 42 wherein the connecting means is a fastener.

44. The positioning tool of claim 42 further comprising the first and second base positioners each having a base retaining portion for placement over the first and second base, respectively, and a handle portion angularly disposed to the retaining portion.

25 45. The positioning handle of claim 44 wherein the handle portions are angularly disposed to the retaining portions at an angle of about 90 degrees.

46. The positioning tool of claim 44 further comprising an offset means for releaseably positioning and holding the base retaining portion of the first base positioner in an offset position from the base retaining portion of the second base positioner.

47. The positioning tool of claim 46 wherein the offset means comprises the handle portion of the first base positioner having a round opening for receiving the connecting means, and the handle portion of the second base positioner having an elongated slot for receiving the connecting means, wherein the handle portions are slidably engaged to each other to create an offset.

48. The positioning tool of claim 42 further comprising a hinged object spacer releaseably attached to the tool, the spacer projecting a distance outwards from the positioning tool for placement into a gap formed between a first hinged object and a second hinged object.

49. The positioning tool of claim 48 further comprising an adjustment means for varying the projection distance.

50. A segmented positioning tool comprising:
a longitudinal axis; and
a first and second base positioner configured and adapted for receiving a first and second hinge mounting base for mounting to a first and second hinged object, respectively; wherein the tool is segmented into at least first and second longitudinal segments.

51. The positioning tool of claim 50 further comprising at least one hinge arranged laterally to the longitudinal axis and holding the at least first and second segments in a pivotable and foldable relationship.

52. The positioning tool of claim 50 further comprising a positioning tool restraining means to hold the at least first and second segments in a straight substantially axially-aligned configuration.

53. The positioning tool of claim 50 further comprising the tool being segmented into at least four segments of at least two different lengths, wherein the segments are releaseably held together and the length of the segments are cooperatively sized to provide an assembled length.

54. A hinge mounting system, comprising:

a first mounting base attachable to a first hinged object and configured and dimensioned for mounting a first mountable portion of a first hinge member thereto with the first base attached to the first hinged object;

5 a mount assembly for a second hinge member and for attachment to a second hinged object; and

the first and second hinge members being pivotally connected together defining a pivot point, wherein the pivot point is asymmetrically located over either the first or second hinged object.

10 55. The hinge mounting system of claim 54 wherein the connection between the first and second hinge members is pinless.

56. The hinge mounting system of claim 54 wherein the first and second hinge members are connected together with at least one pin.

15 57. A positioning tool comprising:
a first half having a handle and a stop;
a second half having a handle and a stop;
a releaseable fastener connecting the first and second halves; and
a blade disposed between the first and second halves, wherein the depth that the blade protrudes from the stops is adjustable.

20 58. A positioning tool comprising:
a first base positioner configured and adapted for receiving a first hinge mounting base, the first base for mounting to a first hinged object;
a second base positioner configured and adapted for receiving a second hinge mounting base, the second base for mounting to a second hinged object;
wherein the first and second base positioners are hingedly connected together to
25 allow the mounting bases to lie flat against the surfaces of the hinged objects.